

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

IO-14 DRC-01 NIC-01 AF-10 EB-11 OMB-01 ACDA-19 /165 W

----- 110886

R 281505Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7543

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RO JO

SUBJ: FOG STYMIES OFFICIAL VISIT OF KING HUSSEIN TO

ROMANIA

REF: BUCHAREST 0082

1. KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN WAS DUE TO ARRIVE IN BUCHAREST MORNING OF JANUARY 28 FOR OFFICIAL VISIT AT INVITATION OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. ROMANIAN SOURCES SAID PRIVATELY THAT HUSSEIN WAS TO HAVE DEPARTED ON JANUARY 30 (SOME DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID HE WAS GOING ON TO LONDON). HEAVY FOG PREVENTED HUSSEIN LANDING ALTHOUGH THREE ATTEMPTS WERE MADE OVER COURSE OF MORE THAN ONE HOUR. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS COULD NOT SAY WHERE HUSSEIN'S PLANE WOULD GO NOW ALTHOUGH ONLY OTHER AIRPORT IN ROMANIA CAPABLE OF TAKING HIS BOEING 707 (NEAR CONSTANTA) WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY ENVELOPED WITH SIMILAR CONDITIONS. AMONG RECEPTION COMMITTEE AT AIRPORT WERE PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU AND OTHER MEMBERS OF TOP LEADERSHIP (I.E., BODNARAS, VERDET, PATAN, MACOVESCU). DIP CORPS TURNOUT INCLUDED ALL ARAB COUNTRIES REPRESENTED HERE. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW PURPOSE OF VISIT AND HAD ONLY LEARNED IT WOULD TAKE
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PLACE ON FRIDAY. NO CTNCRETE INFO AVAILABLE ON PURPOSES

OF VISIT AND FOREIGN MIN MACOVESCU TURNED ASIDE QUERIES.

2. VISIT WAS ANNOUNCED IN PRESS WITH FLATTERING DESCRIPTION (SCINTEIA, JANUARY 28) OF HUSSEIN AND HIS POLICIES. CONSPICUOUS SCINTEIA THEME DURING PAST WEEKS HAS BEEN ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL-TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTION ROMANIA IS MAKING IN ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN MODERATE ARAB STATES. CAMPAIGN, IN FORM OF AGERPRES RELEASES (AND A FEW ARAB NEWS STORIES) PLAYED BACK FROM ARAB CAPITALS, WAS CULMINATED BY LONG BUTTERY SCINTEIA EDITORIAL JANUARY 25 MARKING ARAB SOLIDARITY DAY (OSTENSIBLY SO DESIGNATED BY NOVEMBER 1967 NEW DELHI CONFERENCE). EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTED ROMANIAN-ARAB "FRATERNAL SENTIMENTS OF INTERNATIONALIST SOLIDARITY" AND "TIES OF FRIENDSHIP" WITHOUT, HOWEVER, APPEARING TO CHANGE SUBSTANTIVE ESSENCE OF GOR'S MIDDLE EAST STANCE.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HUSSEIN VISIT WAS RESULT OF GENERALIZED INVITATIONS TO ALL ME STATES MADE INITIALLY IN OCTOBER AND RESULTING IN ABBA EBAN'S COMING HERE ALONE. WE PRESUME THAT INVITATIONS WERE PROBABLY REITERATED TO ALL ARAB STATES DURING SUBSEQUENT TOURS OF ME BY CEAUSESCU'S EMISSARIES MIRCEA MALITA AND CORNELIU MANESCU AND THAT HUSSEIN ALONE HAS RESPONDED FOR REASON OF HIS OWN (PERHAPS TO EXPLAIN, WHEREVER HE CAN, JORDAN'S SPECIAL VIEW OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM).
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